

Appl. No. 09/488,973

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and

compression is illustrated in Fig. 3, wherein a target 50 is illustrated before and after compression, with an arrow 52 provided to indicate the step of compression. Target 50 comprises a first thickness "X" prior to the compression 52 and a second thickness "Y" after the compression. The compression can be accomplished by, for example, cold forging or cold rolling. The final thickness of target 50 ("Y") can be, for example, less than 2% of the initial thickness of target 50 (i.e., a 98% compression), and is typically less than or equal to about 40% of the initial thickness of target 50 (i.e., a 60% compression). In particular embodiments, target 50 can be subjected to a 95% compression (i.e., compressed so that final thickness "Y" is about 5% of initial thickness "X").--

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 of page 9 with the following text,

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--Assembly 70 can be formed in, or placed in, an atmosphere which is inert relative to oxide formation from materials of plate 60 and target 50. In embodiments in which plate 60 and target 50 comprise high-purity aluminum, or aluminum alloys, the inert atmosphere can comprise a vacuum, or consist essentially of, for example, one or more of nitrogen gas and argon gas. The inert atmosphere preferably does not comprise oxidative components (like oxygen), as such could adversely cause oxidation of the materials of one or both of the blank 60 and target 50.--

In the Claims

No changes are made to the claims.